**Knowledge is Power: AREU’s Expert Pool Sparks Energised Discussion**

**Kabul, 27th November 2019** – Yesterday, the Afghanistan Renewable Energy Union’s (AREU) expert pool took part in a workshop at Ministry of Energy and Water. Sixty people, including women, participated in discussions on how to promote the private sector and help AREU disseminate updated information as well as train and build the capacity of its member organisations. In attendance were representatives from the Ministry of Energy and Water (MEW), Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat (DABS), and the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD). The Afghan-German Cooperation’s Energy Sector Improvement Programme (ESIP) supported the workshop.

Faridullah Sharafmal, Head of the Renewable Energy Department said, ‘Quote.’

During the workshop, members discussed the procurement process, updates on rules, laws and policies, up-coming projects and opportunities, technical training for renewable energy companies, and support for the private sector. Experts from key institutions in the renewable energy sector, including MEW, MRRD, and DABS, provided the relevant information.

Knowledge and information offer competitive advantage and opportunities for involvement for companies in the energy sector. The workshop aims to help AREU member organisations develop their businesses in order to compete in the national and international energy market. The workshop also helped reinforce the communication links and social networks of AREU members.

Amena Adel, AREU General Manager said, ‘Quote.’

AREU member organisations also had the opportunity to discuss challenges and opportunities in the sector, and network beyond a formal setting. Helping its members build meaningful relationships by strengthening and broadening their existing networks, AREU can generate an income and become sustainable in the future. In this way, it can better support the renewable energy sector.

*On behalf of the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH implements the Afghanistan Energy Sector Improvement Programme (ESIP). ESIP aims at promoting renewable energy generation and energy efficiency in Afghanistan to boost economic growth and protect the environment. To achieve this goal, ESIP closely cooperates with key actors at national and provincial level to establish an institutional framework that enables a reliable energy supply. It also supports the private sector in adopting market-based quality standards and maintenance concepts for photovoltaics and solar thermal energy to attract investments. At the same time, ESIP implements capacity-building activities for staff in the public and private energy sectors and at universities*.